

## THE SUNDAY JOURNAL.

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1893.

WASHINGTON OFFICE—513 Fourteenth St.

NEW YORK OFFICE—104 Temple Court.

COURT REPORTER—104 Temple Court.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

DAILY.

One year, without Sunday.....\$12.00

Six months, without Sunday.....7.00

Three months, without Sunday.....3.50

One month, without Sunday.....1.00

One month, with Sunday.....1.25

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INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

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Can be found at the following places:

LONDON—American Exchange in Europe, 449

Strand.

PARIS—American Exchange in Paris, 35 Boulevard

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of any Sunday paper in Indiana.

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GENERAL BEN HARRISON.

A Call for a Meeting of Those Who Favor His

Candidates for the Presidency.

All Republicans favoring the nomination of

Gen. Ben Harrison as a candidate for the pres-

idency are requested to meet with the under-

signed and others at the Criminal Court room

Monday evening, May 14, at 8 o'clock, for the

purpose of organizing a Harrison Home Club, to

aid in securing his nomination at Chicago in

next year. Very respectfully,

J. E. Twinn,

H. W. Hiles,

S. W. Patterson,

Horace McKay,

W. D. Wiles,

J. E. Bennett,

Geo. L. Knox,

H. P. Wagoner,

H. W. Hiles,

James B. Black,

S. K. Fletcher,

M. G. McLean,

R. S. Foster,

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W. D. Wiles,

J. E. Bennett,

Geo. L. Knox,

H. P. Wagoner,

larging their plants, increasing their facilities, extending their business, running to their fullest capacity, and those which have already got natural gas are profiting largely by its use. In due time their number will be greatly increased. The natural gas boom is in its infancy yet.

## BUNKER REPORTS.

About this time of year, when the May sun gives a foretaste of July heat, "tourists" flitter about like leaves in an autumn wind. Railroad companies kindly furnish glimpses into the "wonderlands" along their respective lines, and proprietors of summer resorts set forth with all the skill of camera and poetic pen—hired for the purpose—the attractions surrounding their hotels. Enticing views of mountain and valley are spread before the possible traveler; glimpses of cool lakes, shady glens and what the verse writers call "bosky dells" tempt eyes weary of city walls. The fish must lurk in those pools, awaiting the cast of the hook; in some of the pictures in fact, adventurous trout are seen leaping up to meet the seductive fly half way. Game must be hidden in those deep forests, boating delightful in the lakes and along the winding streams; the tired mortal could not do other than solace himself with the vista of earth and sky visible from the veranda of any of the "beautifully situated" hotels on the list.

After inspecting one of these charmingly illustrated guides to summer felicity he proves himself of stolid nature, indeed, who is not immediately filled with desire to see these bits of rural paradise in reality. Fortunate is he if he can follow where his fancy and the railroads lead. If he cannot—and so many, alas! cannot—he may seek to console himself with the reflection that those hills and valleys are not as art has pictured them; that the lakes are shallow ponds; that the streams are dry, the gamey fish a figment of the imagination, the landscapes dreary and depressing. He may recall the fact that nothing is so stuffy in the picture as the "palatial hotels," of lumpy beds, of the infinite repetition of "canned goods" in the bill of fare, of mosquitoes, and flies and other discomforts, and may be certain that all these drawbacks and more do exist. Comfort lies not in these reflections. The summer outing may include much not catalogued in the guides that could not properly be placed under the head of attractions, and may miss some of the sights and pleasures so confidently promised; but, nevertheless, if taken in the right spirit, a spirit that overlooks annoyances and sees only the advantages, it is worth sacrifice to secure, and will yield returns not promised in the most enticing advertisement. Most busy people need rest; all are better for change of scene and companionship. In twelve months of daily routine even the least methodical of persons falls into a rut from which he needs to be moved. The summer vacation does this; gives him new ideas, brings him in contact with new people, makes his world larger and is altogether a benefit. More and more, too, it is becoming a necessity. The man who has once learned to "loaf and invite his soul" in July and August needs no invitation from railroad or hostelry to repeat the experience.

## MODERN GRAMMAR.

An impression exists among people of mature years that English grammar in the shape that made a lingering thread of misery through their own early school days is unknown to children who enjoy all the modern improvements in educational methods. A few years ago when Richard Grant White undertook to show that the prevailing system of teaching the English language was false in principle and incorrect in detail, his bold stand met with the instant approval of so many who had struggled with the mysteries of Murray, or Green, or Quackenbush, or their followers, that the burden of comment upon his essay was that of a more simple method of acquainting a child with his mother tongue must be devised. Educators, of course, protested; but as a result of the demand for reform, new text-books were speedily produced, a great deal was said concerning the "natural" method of imparting instruction on the subject, and the new books were labeled "Language Lessons." The average man or woman who is not a teacher nor a reviewer of recent publications is apt to have but a transient interest in the contents of primary lesson-books; even the parent, compelled to supplement the labors of the teacher by explanation of knotty points, is not often of an investigating turn of mind, and knows very little of the system by which his offspring is acquiring information. The title "language lessons" is misleading; the child, when asked, says he does not study grammar, and it is vaguely assumed from these premises that the necessary knowledge of the vernacular is instilled upon an improved plan. A little investigation, however, shows that the language lessons are the old grammar, not simplified but amplified. The arrangement of matter differs, but the substance is there and more. The ten-year-old student, for instance, is not first taught the meaning of the word "noun"; he is plunged into the complications of analysis, which once came last in order. Sentences must first be "dissected," the diagram being a system of lines perpendicular, horizontal, slanting and broken, of which no non-professional description can convey an accurate idea. "Truth crushed to earth will rise again," as an example, is wrenched, and twisted, and dissected into a shape so unnatural as to make its rise seem impossible, and the explanation is given to the wondering infant that the curious combination of lines and of words, standing on their heads or sliding down hill, "shows that the participle 'crushed' is used like an adjective to modify truth, and yet retains the nature of a verb expressing an action received by truth." Doubtless it does; but of what use is that fact to the infant, and will he be able to recognize a participle when he meets one again? Will the ten-year-old, even though he "has an examination" on every language lesson with a ninety-per-cent. "average," be so familiar with "object complements," "attribute complements," "subordinate conjunctions," "phrase-modifiers" and "adjective clauses,"

that he will not require an introduction a month later? And will it make any earthly difference if he forget all about them the very next day, and never renew the acquaintance? Educators will insist that these are essentials, but facts are against them. American history is full of men whose early education was neglected in this respect and yet who have a thorough command of their native tongue.

There is reason for belief, for instance, that Abraham Lincoln never diagrammed a sentence in the whole course of his life, and yet Mr. Lincoln was fairly correct in the use of language. It is not probable that he "built up" the Gettysburg speech upon the plan of the "language lessons," nor that he paused to reflect whether it contained a phrase-modifier or an adjective clause. But the Gettysburg speech will "parse" as smoothly as the most exacting professor could wish. It is not impossible that if Chief-Justice Fuller were suddenly called on to point out a subordinate conjunction or an adverb of degree he would indignantly fall. Less notable persons, but still of fair literary attainments, have been known to become confused among the simple parts of speech, and to confess that they could not stand a civil-service examination for a messengerehip if the technical definition of a preposition or an adverb were required of them. The truth is, a correct use and command of English is secured only through a familiarity with the best literature, from hearing correct language spoken, and in the case of children, by a constant watchfulness and correction of errors on the part of their teachers and parents. There may be children who learned, by parsing and diagramming, to speak properly, but they are few.

## MONUMENT CIRCLE.

The excavation now being made in the Circle for the foundation of the soldiers' monument will be the last disturbance the soil in that inclosure will suffer for a long time. The Circle has undergone many changes, but the location of the monument there will be a permanent one. It was originally laid out as the starting point of the town, and the circular street around it was the first one regularly located. This was in 1821. For a few years no attempt was made either to utilize or beautify the Circle. In those days artistic ornamentation was not thought of, and native trees were too abundant to require the planting of any. In January, 1827, the Legislature appropriated \$4,000 to build a residence for the Governor in the Circle. This gave it the name of the Governor's Circle, which it bore for a long time. The act also ordered the Circle to be fenced in, which had not been done before. The building intended for the Governor's residence was never occupied for that purpose. In fact, it was only partially completed, and in that condition was used for public offices, lawyers' offices, a county library and such other purposes as the primitive community could put it to. It was a large, square, two-story brick structure, crudely planned and plainly built, with a flat surface about twelve feet square on the roof which was intended as a sort of observatory. For many years the Supreme Court met in the upper rooms of the building. Judge Isaac Blackford, one of the greatest jurists Indiana ever possessed, and the author of Blackford's Reports, still recognized authority throughout the English-speaking world, had his office and sleeping room on the second floor. He was a bachelor and continued to live in the old building until he was appointed judge of the Court of Claims, and removed to Washington. By degrees the building fell into disuse, became tramped, and finally a resort for loafers, tramps, rats and other nuisances. In 1857 it was sold at auction, torn down, and the materials removed. Since then the Circle has been used as a park, though without any systematic plan of improving it. The soldiers' monument will make it a very attractive spot and the city should do its full share towards beautifying it. To this end there should be adopted a systematic plan of permanent improvement, and one in harmony with the monument and esplanade which will be the central feature and main attraction. The Circle should by all means be surrounded with a first-class asphalt pavement; the best that can be laid, and this should be continued for half a square on the four streets radiating from the Circle, and entirely to the new State-house. As the Circle is the property of the State, and is directly in front of the main entrance to the State-house, the Legislature might be induced to contribute to the expense of paving and otherwise beautifying it. A work of that kind should not be done piecemeal, nor on any make-shift plan, but with a view to the best results, both for the present and the distant future. Such a plan of improvement should be agreed upon before the monument is built, and should be adapted to that central feature. If properly conceived and carried out, the Circle can be made the most beautiful spot in any Northern city.

## MINOR MATTERS.

It has often been remarked that crime seems to be governed by some law of averages or periodicity, particular crimes being remarkably prevalent at one time and then giving place to those of another class. Sometimes burglaries are prevalent, sometimes robbery, now crimes against property, and again crimes against the person. This year one kind of crime will seem to be epidemic and next year it will be something else. They seem to move in cycles. Somewhat akin to this is the fact that the punishment of crime seems to vary greatly at different times in promptness and severity. The law seems to have periods of different vigor and activity. This may be due, in part, to the fact that public sentiment is not always equally active and strong in demanding the enforcement of law. The warden of Joliet penitentiary said a few days ago: "The punishment of crime seems to run in waves that swell and recede like those of the ocean. At times there is a public demand for the punishment of crime that stirs up the prosecuting officers, which is soon followed by carelessness on the part of the public, that leads to carelessness among the prosecuting attorneys. A year or so ago there were 200 more convicts in Joliet than there are now. This was not because there was more crime then than now, but because the wave of punishment is just now receding in the State. There is something in this for law-abiding people to think about. The laws

should not be enforced by fits and starts, but all the time. A steady pressure against crime is much more effective than an occasional rush.

EDITOR S. S. ROCKWELL, of the Portage State Register, in his address before the Wisconsin State Press Association, said of the ideal newspaper:

"Above all would it shun the fatal mistake of siding with the noise on the carbores on the extreme poles of the political and newspaper, in the former, to the endangering of good government, in the latter, to the corrupting of morals and the undermining of the public mind. The influence of the press for good, and for the influence of the press for evil, is the character of a paper in its capital, and in a paper, by echoing the unreliable noise of the carbores, the vile babblings of the loafing, indolent, ignorant, corrupt, intemperate demagogue, villifiers of the public and the champion of 1776, ending with a description of the vilest of bribing-plotters, forswearing the truth for candor, reliability and honesty, it becomes worthless even as a medium for reliable business men to reach their customers, and ought to be shunned as the plague by all heads of families who have the safety of their homes or the welfare of the community at heart."

A CELEBRATED EVER in the modern history of the Roman Catholic Church is called to mind by the appearance in Madrid of Father Mortara, a delicate-looking man, thirty-seven years of age, who has created a furore by his thoughtful, fervent, eloquent preaching and marvelous knowledge of languages. He speaks and writes thoroughly twenty-two tongues. Mortara has gone wild over here, and his sermons have moved the Queen, princesses and ladies of the court that more funds than he can well dispose of have been subscribed for a convent chapel which he is building at Onate, in the Basque highlands. This priest is the same Edgar Mortara, a Jewish child, born in the States of the Church, whose education and alleged forcible abduction from his parents by the papal authorities caused such a sensation thirty years ago. The French government attempted to obtain the custody of the child. The Archbishop of Canterbury and a host of English clergy and laity signed a protest against his removal from his parents, and Sir James Spenser went specially to Rome on his behalf, but all to no avail.

The Toledo Blade says the general passenger agent of a railroad entering that city recently received a letter from an agent on the line, of which the following is an exact copy:

"Kind Sir: I write you to know about minutes of the General Convention of the A. O. U. W. to which I am going. He claimed that he was entitled to Half Fare over the St. L. & C. K. as a member of the Good Templars, and thought I saw, and if so will you please send me a Half Fare Pass for Mr. Robert A. Carter."

Heads thy way O Lord, I will walk in thy truth, O. K.

"Truly truly, Agt."

The general agent should send the writer a copy of the interstate law bound in Russia Morocco and annotated with the decisions of the commission.

The Central Baptist, a leading organ of that denomination, has this to say of Sam Jones:

"Sam Jones is a picture. So, it might with truth be added, is a cowboy. Sam Jones is useful, in his place. So, also, it may be said, is a Christian Temperance Union. In this way he has succeeded at the end of three years in producing 4,000 proselytes, at a cost of \$45.

HARUKU, Empress of Japan, will visit America next winter, traveling in state with a dozen members of honor, numerous officials and every necessary retinue. The Empress will be accompanied by Mr. William M. Warren, instructor in English literature and rhetoric at Harvard, who will have charge of the mathematical department next year while Professor Colt is in Europe.

EX-SENATOR POWELL CLAYTON, of Arkansas, has made all his fortune since the war. At the close of the hostilities he had hardly a dollar in the world, but he has since accumulated a handsome plantation, and in less than ten years he had made \$1,000,000.

PROF. SCHMIDT, of Gatz University, has his upon the plan of cutting off pieces of living space and planting them in a suitable place in the soil, so that they will grow twice. In this way he has succeeded at the end of three years in producing 4,000 proselytes, at a cost of \$45.

PRESIDENT SELTZER, of Amherst College, is gifted with a remarkable memory. He is able to greet by name every living graduate of the college, and he has a perfect knowledge of the names of all the graduates who have been in college a week or more. He has a perfect knowledge of the names of all the graduates who have been in college a week or more.

HARPER'S BAZAR: Woman (to tramp)—And I give you a nice plate of hash you promise to saw some wood? Tramp—Yes, m. Woman—(doubtfully)—I don't know whether I can put confidence in you or not. Tramp—(reproachfully)—You ought to have confidence in me. I have confidence enough in you to eat the hash.

LADY DUDLEY, it is rumored, will be married again. The engagement will be announced as soon as the festivities of the young earl's coming of age are finished. She always sleeps, it is stated, black silk, and when her complexion has lost none of its dazzling fairness. Her alleged fiancé is a captain in a French lancer regiment, and entirely impopular.

SHOOT AND LEATHER BROTHERS: They were continuing toward a fund for the extinguishment of the church debt in New Jersey town of the other evening. "I'll contribute \$20," said one brother. "I'll go \$30 better, and make it \$50," said another. And then the first contributor, in the excitement of the moment, shouted: "I'll call you what you are!"

MEISSNER, in painting his new "1897," a mammoth water-color, received government aid to an extent which must make the artists of other countries envious. He bought a cornfield to get the effect of a beaten-down harvest; the government detailed a squadron of cavalry to march through the corn-field, so that his realism might have the benefit to be derived from studying real horses and real troopers in action.

The terrors of spring house-cleaning have been mitigated in New York. A house-cleaning company has been formed, and at a small expense relieves the housekeeper of all the work, and has everything in apple-pie order in a few hours. The company invades the house with a variety of machinery. Or, if the house is small, brushes, pails, etc., and cleans the place entirely, patching up holes, whitewashing where necessary, touching doors up with paint, and the like.

The New York World cites the Buffalo natural-gas explosion as proof that "in harnessing the forces of nature we are going rather too fast, and are very much like children handling edged tools." There is enough in this and similar accidents to call for extreme care and caution in the handling and management of natural gas, and yet there is no occasion for a panic. Artificial gas is dangerous, so is coal-oil, and so is fire if foolishly tampered with. With proper care there is no more danger in natural gas than in the others.

A CAT with seven legs and two tails, which had been a valued member of a Connecticut family, died the other day and was buried in a black walnut box that bore on its lid the simple inscription, "It." How the learned scientists of a thousand years hence will puzzle over those bones, to be sure. Dissections on the sacred cat of Americans in the nineteenth century will then be in order, together with attempts to prove that the inhabitants, cats and all, were direct descendants of the ancient Egyptians.

MRS. FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT, the American novelist, has achieved a notable triumph in the English courts by establishing the right of an author to prevent the making of even a single copy of an unauthorized play containing passages identical in form or substance with parts of the novel. The suit grew out of an unauthorized dramatization of her "Little Lord Fauntleroy." Mrs. Burnett, by the way, is much courted in London society.

It costs something to handle a national convention. According to an estimate submitted to the citizens' executive committee of St. Louis, it will cost \$32,000 to take care of the national Democratic convention, which meets in that city on the 5th prox. This does not include the various private undertakings in the way of entertainment. The Hendricks Association will spend \$5,000 in entertaining visiting clubs and State delegations.

This average man, if permitted to choose from the world's blessings, would probably make selections not widely different from the belongings of the late Stephen Von Karel, the famous Austrian millionaire and the "handsome man in the empire." And yet as Von Karel has killed himself it seems that wealth and beauty, with all their accompaniments, do not fill all the waste of the human soul.

The State authorities of Texas have formally occupied the new Capitol, built by a Chicago syndicate, and the dedication will take place on Wednesday next. The acceptance of the building by the State gives the Chicago syndicate pos-

session of the million acres of land in the Panhandle of Texas, suitable for agricultural purposes. There is now one railroad running forty-five miles through this tract, and three others are projected and surveyed through it.

A STREET shooting affray occurred in a Florida town a few days ago, about 9 o'clock in the morning, in describing which the local paper says: "This firing on the streets at an hour when children were on their way to school, in range of the shots, is to be deplored." It does seem as if the marksmen might wait till after the school had "taken up."

ROSCOE CONKLING's will was a model of brevity. It was just eight lines long, and bequeathed his entire estate, real and personal, to his wife, and made her executrix of the will. His estate was worth about \$200,000. The will is sufficient answer to the attacks made a few years ago on Mr. Conkling's domestic relations.

TRAY is a faithful subject of the Emperor Frederick who is ready to submit to the removal of his larynx, and, of course, to the consequent sacrifice of his life, if by so doing his King may live. "Greater love hath no man than this."

THE birthday anniversary of Mr. George W. Childs was celebrated by a banquet last night, at which were present Simon Cameron and several of the old boys who were young when the nineteenth century was.

THE new State-house is warned by natural gas under a contract several hundred dollars less than could be secured from the Trust; and the government still lives.

If any one thinks he has not received five cents worth in this issue of the Sunday Journal his money will be refunded to him by calling at the counting-room.

THERE will be no thunderous protests against cheap gas, whether heating or illuminant.

THE Journal thinks the public will not become panic-stricken because of cheap gas.